

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/798,755

Examiner

Zoila E. Cabrera

Applicant(s)

ONISHI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/20/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-6,8,9,11 and 12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/5/05.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-9, and 11-12 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The allowability of the claims resides, at least in part, that the closest prior art of record **Fukuda (US 6,788,990)** does not disclose or suggest, alone or in combination the step of:

Regarding independent claim 1, wherein each of the inspection/manufacturing apparatuses has a plurality of types of inspection functions; and wherein the change section of the management computer selects at least one of the inspection functions, and changes only the selected at least one inspection function when changing the operation conditions of said at least a plurality of the inspection/manufacturing apparatuses as a group, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 4, a display section to display on a same display screen of a monitor device: (i) at least one of each said information item of the operation conditions of the respective inspection/manufacturing apparatuses, and each said maintenance information item, and (ii) an arrangement layout drawing of the inspection/manufacturing apparatuses; wherein the display section of the display section of the management computer displays the inspection/manufacturing apparatuses as management targets and displays the inspection/manufacturing apparatuses and the operation conditions thereof in

respective lists, and wherein the display section does not display any apparatus which is not a management target in a list, and display inspection/manufacturing apparatuses as the management targets in a different conformation than said any apparatus that is not a management target in the arrangement layout drawing, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 8, **a setting section to set a timing to validate the operation conditions changes as a group**, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 11, **wherein the maintenance target items of the respective inspection/manufacturing apparatuses comprise a light source used in inspection or manufacture in each of the inspection/manufacturing apparatuses; and wherein the notification section: (i) integrates lighting times of the respective light sources of the respective inspection/manufacturing apparatuses and compares an integration result with an average life time, (ii) generates a notification when the light source is close to a life end point, (iii) generates a warning sound until replacement of the light source when the average life time is reached and when the light source cannot be used, and (iv) notifies a portable terminal of an operator of a warning**, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

As for independent claim 12, **wherein the management computer further comprises a light control section which: (i) illuminates a reference inspection/manufacturing object with each said light source while changing a**

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voltage of the light source, (ii) creates an ideal lamp characteristic curve based on brightness data and a voltage obtained by measuring with a corresponding said sensor unit a brightness of light beams reflected from the reference inspection/manufacturing object during the illumination, and (iii) during inspection/manufacturing of an object to be inspected/manufacture, adjusts a voltage of the light source such that a brightness of the object to be inspected/manufactured is equal to a brightness corresponding to a set voltage of the ideal lamp characteristic curve, in combination with the other elements and features of the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zoila E. Cabrera whose telephone number is 571-272-3738. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST (every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on (571) 2723749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Any

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inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-9600.



Zolia Cabrera
Patent Examiner
August 4, 2005